

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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[Redacted]
Chief, Liaison Division, OCD
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.



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My dear [Redacted]

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Your letter of October 20, 1950, together with supporting documents was received by me through the courtesy of [Redacted] of your office. This constitutes a reply to your letter and also to the specific procedural questions directed to me by [Redacted]

The full scope of your proposed study, as set forth in your directive from the National Security Council, indicates that you are undertaking a work of very considerable proportions which has important implications for numerous government agencies and touches upon many aspects of the work of the government both in Washington and abroad. We note, however, that you are immediately concerned with one aspect of this study as set forth in Section 3, Scope of Survey, in your document entitled, "Specifications of a Survey of U. S. Government Agencies Engaged in Foreign Economic Activities."

My immediate reaction to your proposal is that while the results of your study may be of great value to the government considered as a whole, and will be important to the extent that you succeed in rationalizing the work of the various agencies engaged in the collection and use of foreign economic data, it will be of lesser significance to ECA inasmuch as we, because of the nature of our problems, have developed more or less independently a system for the acquisition of economic information which generally meets our own particular needs. I would hazard a guess that in the establishment of any statement of requirements for all agencies of the government for economic data as distinct from, if it is possible to make the distinction, economic intelligence immediately related to problems of national security as mentioned in [Redacted] memorandum, you may well find that the material now being collected by ECA through its missions and through its association with the OEEC is, as distinct from the material that has previously been collected by agencies of the government, more nearly the type of economic information that the whole government needs now and will increasingly need in the future.

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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November 22, 1950

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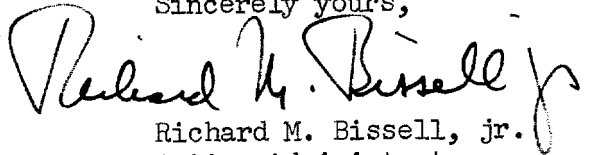
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This agency will, of course, cooperate with you on your present study. In carrying this out, we would like to accept your suggestion that you designate a member of your staff to work with us. I think this is particularly important as in the final analysis you will be faced with a problem that is essentially interagency in character, and I feel that only through frequent contacts with someone in your agency will we be in a position to keep our own study in line with your objectives. Mr. Irving Swerdlow, Director of the Division of Statistics and Reports, will be in charge of this study in ECA and I would suggest that you have your representative contact him in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard M. Bissell, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard M. Bissell, Jr.
Acting Administrator

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